

Glacier County FSA Office
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Cut Bank, MT 59427
Phone: 406 873-5618 - Extension 2
Fax: 406-873-3473

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Tribal Headquarters Bldg
Browning, MT 59417
Phone: 406-338-2251
Fax: 406-338-3529

County Committee Members

Colleen Gustafson - Chairman
Keven Bradley - Vice Chairman
Ken Parsons - Regular Member

FSA Office Personnel

Michelle Edwards - CED
Mike Higgins - FLM
Debra Duke - FLPT
Barbara Jenkins - PT
Sheila Koepke - PT
Nita Tomsheck - PT
Maxine Volkman - PT
Kathleen Barbie - TOPT
Stacy Layne - TF/TOPT

Dates to Remember:

NAP Pull-Off Date – May 15
May 15-Aug. 1 – Primary nesting season
May 31 – Final loan/LDP availability date for Corn, Dry Peas, Lentils, Mustard Seed, Flax, Safflower Seed, and Small Chickpeas, harvested in 2006
July 16 – Acreage Reporting Deadline
August 3 – Acreage Reporting Deadline



Glacier FSA Office

April 2007

2007 Final Year of DCP Program Under 2002 Farm Bill

The sign-up deadline for the 2007 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program has been extended from June 1 to August 3, 2007.

The decision to extend the deadline was made as a result of earlier computer networking problems that hampered FSA's ability to process DCP enrollments. Enrollment in DCP for the 2007 contract period began on October 1, 2006.

The extension applies only to the enrollment time frame and does not extend the annual DCP contract period beyond September 30, 2007. A late-file fee of \$100 will be assessed for farms that are enrolled after August 3, 2007 but no later than September 30, 2007. Applications filed after September 30, 2007 cannot be approved.

Direct Payments are based on a farm's historical commodity bases and yields. For crop year 2007, an advance payment of 22 percent may be requested with the final payment to be issued in October.

Counter-cyclical payments are made to producers when the effective price for eligible commodities is less than the target price.

We encourage you to sign up early to avoid the \$100 late file fee. Contact the office to set up an appointment.

2007 Acreage Reports

It is time to certify your planted acres and all acreage reports need to be accurate and filed by the final reporting date of July 16, 2007. Certification is mandatory if any of the following apply:

- ◆ You receive DCP payments
- ◆ You have acres enrolled in CRP
- ◆ Loans or LDP's will be requested; including Wool, Mohair and Honey
(All cropland on the farm must be certified to be eligible for DCP and loan program benefits).
- ◆ Acreage is covered by NAP

All acreage reports need to be filed by the final reporting date of **July 16, 2007**. Failure to report accurately may result in loss of program and price support benefits.

Conservation Compliance

Federal regulations discourage the production of crops on highly erodible cropland unless the land is protected from erosion by an approved conservation system. Status reviews are conducted to ensure producers follow a conservation plan on highly erodible land. In addition to the highly erodible land, a person may not plant an agricultural commodity on wetland converted after Dec. 23, 1985, or convert a wetland to make agricultural production possible after Nov. 28, 1990. Failure to comply with these provisions will cause a person to be ineligible for USDA benefits. County Committees may review noncompliance situations for good faith and provide relief in approved cases.

Removing CCC Loan Collateral

Producers are reminded, if you have grain under Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loan it cannot be removed or disposed of without prior FSA county office staff authorization or repayment. The county office staff may issue release authorizations based on a telephone or in person request when you are ready to move the grain. A loan violation is subject to monetary and administrative penalties, such as repaying the loan at principal plus interest, liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans and loan deficiency payments. All commodity loans are subject to spot check. Locking in a market loan repayment rate is not a marketing authorization. If you are planning to move CCC loan grain, contact the county office staff for additional information.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

If you purchased a NAP (Non-insurable Assistance Program) Application from our office a couple things to remember:

- * **If you have a loss, you must complete a Notice of Loss Form in our office within 15 days after the disaster occurrence OR 15 days from the date damage to the specific crop acreage is apparent.**
- * If livestock are grazing forage acres between May 15 and October 15 and you have a loss, it will be paid as a grazing loss rather than a forage loss.
- * All NAP 2006 crop production records must be reported to our office by July 16, 2007.

Farm Loans for Minority Groups

FSA can make direct and guarantee loans to groups considered as minorities under USDA definition. These groups include women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Funds can be used to buy and operate family-sized farms and ranches.

Individuals and entities primarily and directly engaged in farming and ranching on family-sized operations may apply. A family-sized farm is considered to be one that a family can operate and manage itself. Applicants must meet all requirements for FSA's regular farm loan program assistance. Contact the FSA office for exact criteria.

Repayment terms for direct operating loans depend on the collateral securing the loan and usually run from 1 to 7 years. Interest rates for direct loans are set periodically according to the Government's cost of borrowing. Repayment terms for direct farm ownership loans are up to 40 years. Interest rates for guaranteed loans are established by the lender. Applications for direct loans are made through the local FSA office. Applications for guaranteed loans are made with the lender.

2007 Crop Loan Rates for Small Chickpeas, Dry Peas and Lentils

The 2007-crop dry pea loan rate for Montana is \$6.12 per cwt. The lentil loan rate for Montana is \$10.97 per cwt. USDA determined that there is insufficient reliable market information to establish regional loan rates for small chickpeas. The national rate of \$7.43 cwt applies for all producing areas.

Marketing assistance loans provide producers interim financing after harvest of their crop to meet cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but who agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain a loan deficiency payment (LDP).

The Marias River Watershed (MRW) is a collection of landowners, conservation districts and tribes with the common purpose of protecting and improving the land, water, and resources of the Marias River Watershed (main stem and tributaries).

To that end, the MRW Executive Board is in the process of developing future goals/projects for the watershed and would welcome input from watershed residents and the public.

Please take a few minutes and complete the questions listed below. Return the completed survey to: Glacier Conservation District, One Third Street NE, Cut Bank MT 59427.....Thank you.

SURVEY QUESTIONS – Keep in mind that MRW would look for technical and financial assistance to address the resource concerns submitted:

1. Do you have perennial or intermittent streams on your property? Yes _____ No _____
Are there eroding banks or other weed/vegetation issues found in these waterways? Yes _____ No _____
Briefly describe the situation. _____
2. What noxious weeds are present on your property? _____

Would you use financial or informational assistance in dealing with these weeds? Yes _____ No _____
3. If you are a dryland or irrigated producer, are there programs that the Marias River Watershed could help support that would benefit your farming operation (example: funding for precision farming, alternative crop demonstration plots, weed and insect pest information, etc.)? _____
4. If you run livestock, list any livestock water developments or other range/pasture improvements needed. _____
5. Would you attend workshops on alternative energy development (wind energy, bio-fuels, etc)? Yes _____ No _____
Do you have interest in on-farm energy development? _____
6. Do you allow public access for hunting, floating and other recreation activities? Yes _____ No _____
What problems does that pose for you? _____
Would you utilize a brochure that lists reminders that access to private land is a privilege, floating information like river miles and estimated floating times, access points, areas with no cell phone coverage, phones numbers for river conditions and fishing regulations, etc.? Yes _____ No _____
7. Do you have saline soil and/or water problems on your property? Yes _____ No _____
Would you like to be contacted by MT Salinity Control Association and/or the local conservation district for ideas to improve the conditions? (There would not be a cost involved for the initial field review) Yes _____
8. How might the Marias River Watershed assist with your operation and the community in general? _____
9. Are you willing to be involved in a particular area of interest with the Marias River Watershed group?
If yes, what would that be? _____
10. Do you want to receive periodic MRW newsletters? Yes _____ No _____ Electronic format? Yes _____ No _____
Email address for newsletters _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED SURVEY TO:

GLACIER COUNTY CONSERVATION DIST
ONE 3rd ST NE
CUT BANK, MT 59427

**GLACIER FSA OFFICE
ONE 3rd ST NE
CUT BANK, MT 59427**

Return Service Requested

PRESORT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BOZEMAN, MT 59715
PERMIT #54

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Customers**

Important Dates to Remember

NAP Pull-Off Date – date varies by county
May 15-Aug. 1 – Primary nesting season
May 31 – Final loan/LDP availability date for
Corn, Dry peas, Grain sorghum, Lentils,
Mustard seed, Small chickpeas, Soybeans,
and Sunflower seed harvested in 2006
June 8 –Final Date to return completed
Certification Maps to our office
July 16 – Acreage Reporting Deadline

eAuthentication Contact Information

The USDA eAuthentication Help Desk Support contact information has changed.

Contact information is as follows:

- For routine needs email: eAuthHelpDesk@ftc.usda.gov
- For emergencies: 1-800-457-3642

The hours of operation are 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. eastern time Monday through Friday.

USDA provides their customers an opportunity to do business electronically 24 hours a day seven days a week over the Internet. To do business electronically a Level 2 account is needed. Should you need assistance in setting up this account, contact your local FSA office or logon to the Montana FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt, select “Online Services” and click on “Create an Account Page”.